ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 4, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Virtual/Microsoft Teams Meeting

Call-in number: 1-323-776-6996 Access Code: 831 836 193#

AGENDA

1. Introductions

2. Legislative update (CEO) — 10 minutes

3. ODR Partnership with LASC (DCBA) — 15 minutes

4. Business Relief updates: — 20 minutes

   a) LA Regional Covid-19 Recovery Fund (DCBA)

   b) Keep LA County Dining (LACDA)

   c) Overview of LAEDC Economic Recovery Report and Recommendations (WDACS)

5. Digital Divide Strategic Plan (CIO) — 15 minutes

6. Public comment

NOTE:

Please send comments to EconomicDevelopment@ceo.lacounty.gov by Wednesday February 3rd at noon. They will be shared with the Committee prior to the meeting.

OFFICE OF THE CIO

Digital Divide Strategic Plan

Jan, 2021

Agenda

- Background
- Problem Statement
- Approach
  - Guiding Principles
  - Solution Considerations & Examples
  - Stakeholders
- MIT REAP Program – Strategic Partner
- Timelines
- Next Steps

COVID-19 crisis has revealed deep ‘Digital Divide’ problem in Los Angeles County

”The closure of schools in L.A. County has severely impacted families and students and has further exacerbated the digital divide in our communities. The communities experiencing increases in COVID-19 cases and unemployment due to extended closures are the same communities that are negatively impacted by distance learning.”

Supervisor Kathryn Barger

“High-speed Internet access is essential in our ever-evolving digital world. By addressing this need, we can strengthen our economy, enhance learning and improve the quality of life for all County residents”

Supervisor Hilda L. Solis

“Well before the pandemic and schools’ implementation of online learning, I was deeply concerned about students and families who are most impacted by racial and socioeconomic inequity. The pandemic has only exacerbated that inequity and resulted in yet more students falling behind.”

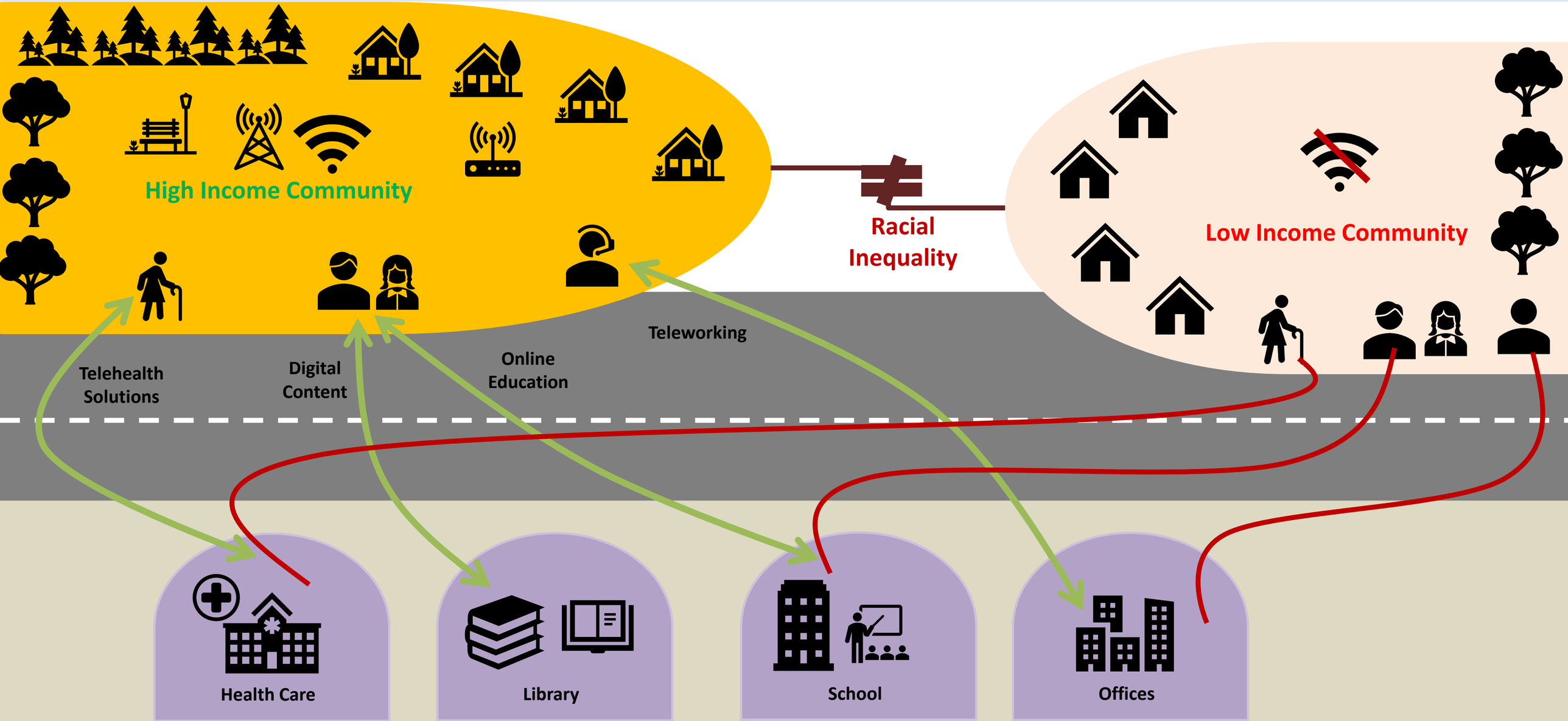
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

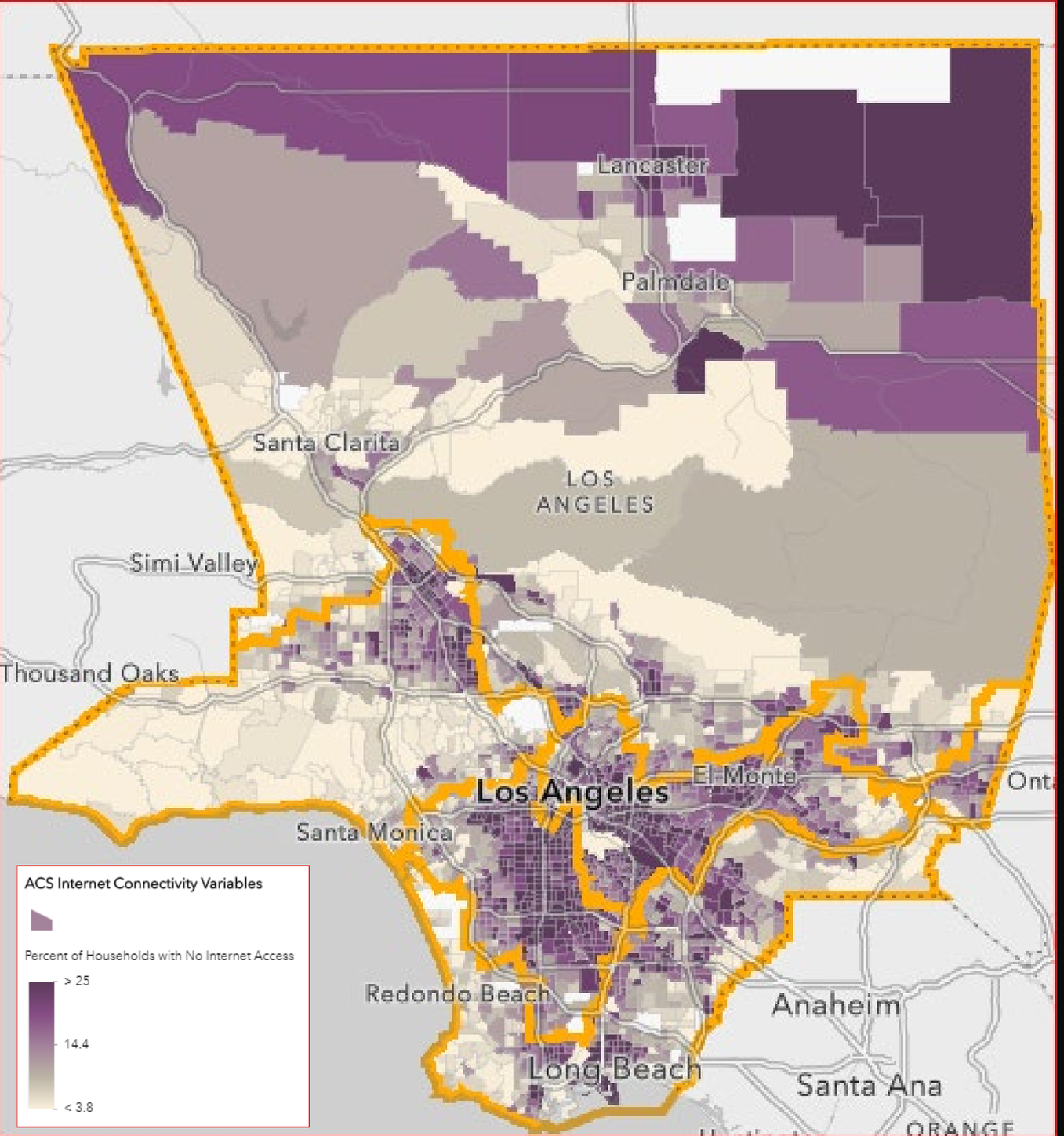
Board Motions

- “Empowerment Program to Address the Digital Divide in Underserved Communities” dated Oct 27, 2020, Supervisor Hilda L. Solis & Supervisor Kathryn Barger
- “Establishing Pathways to equitable access to high speed internet and bridging the digital divide” dated October 13, 2020, Supervisor Hilda L. Solis & Supervisor Kathryn Barger
- “Los Angeles County Equitable Education Access” dated July 21, 2020, Supervisor Kathryn Barger & Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
- “Expanding Access to Healthcare through Telehealth” dated September 1, 2020, Supervisor Kathryn Barger & Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
- “A Just and Equitable Response to Disparities Illuminated by the COVID-19 Pandemic” dated June 9, 2020, Supervisor Hilda L. Solis & Supervisor Sheila Kuehl

Digital Community

Digital Divide - Disparities across communities leading to the racial inequality





County of Los Angeles Network & Technology Accessibility Dashboard

- 5.5% of households do not have a computer or internet access
- 11.9% lack a broadband internet subscription

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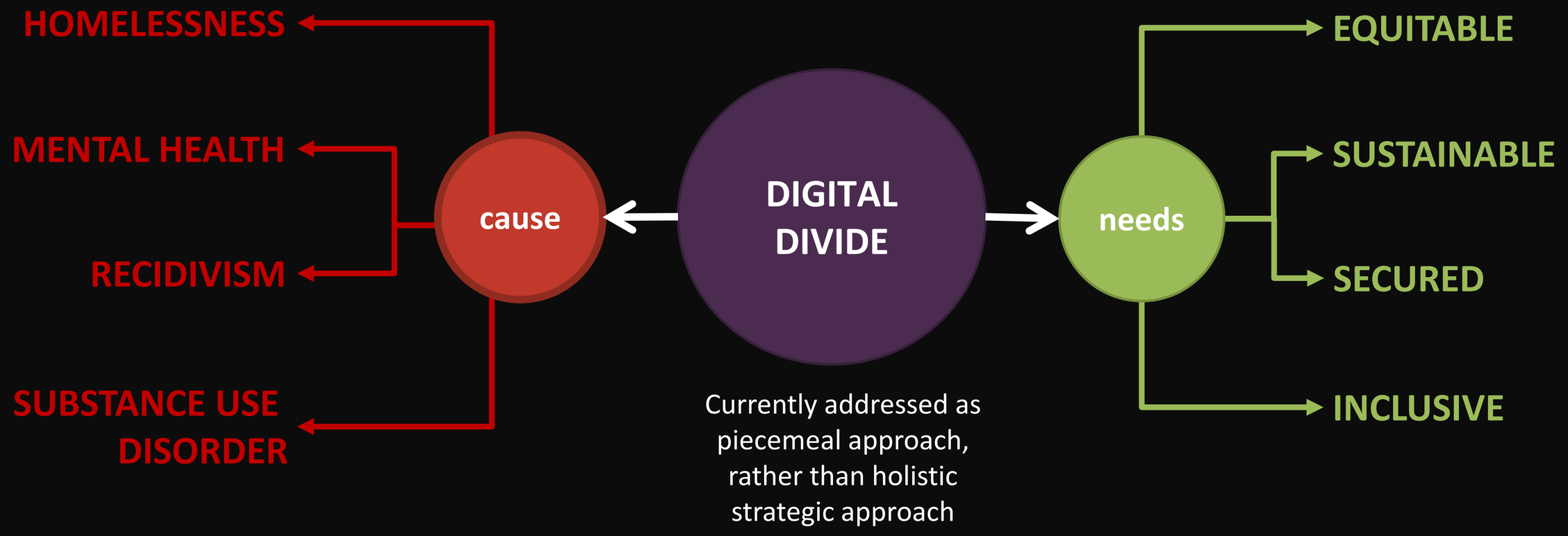
Need for holistic "Digital Divide Strategy"

Requires actional strategy with clear guiding principles to also assist in reducing current social issues for the County



Digital Divide – Solution Components

Broadband access to all residents

Devices for all residents

Training for all residents

Approach

Need Short Term and Long Term Digital Divide Strategic Approach

Sustained Regional Strategy

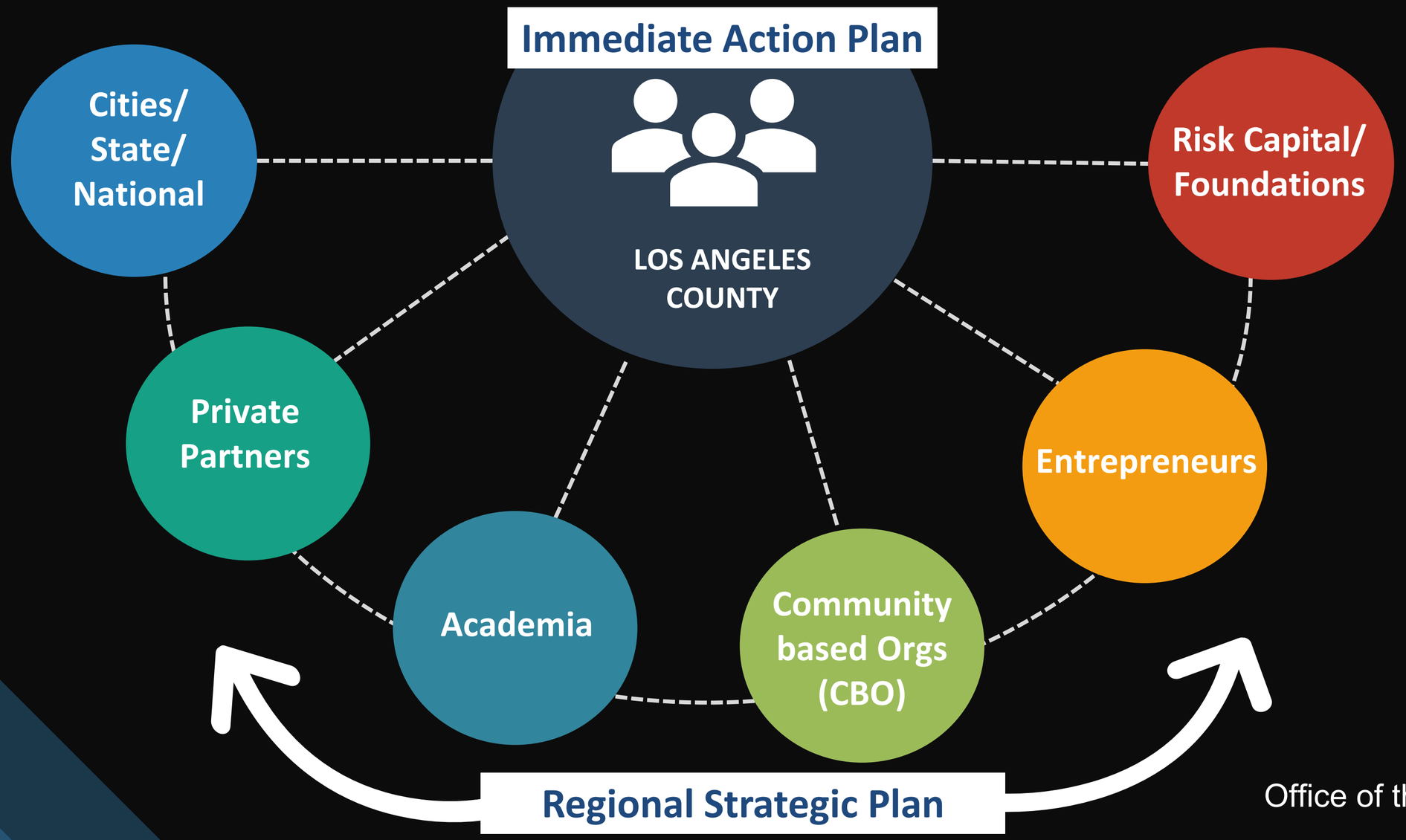
Holistic Strategic Plan

Immediate Action Plan

Quick Wins

Stakeholders

Need diverse, internal and external stakeholders from the Los Angeles region

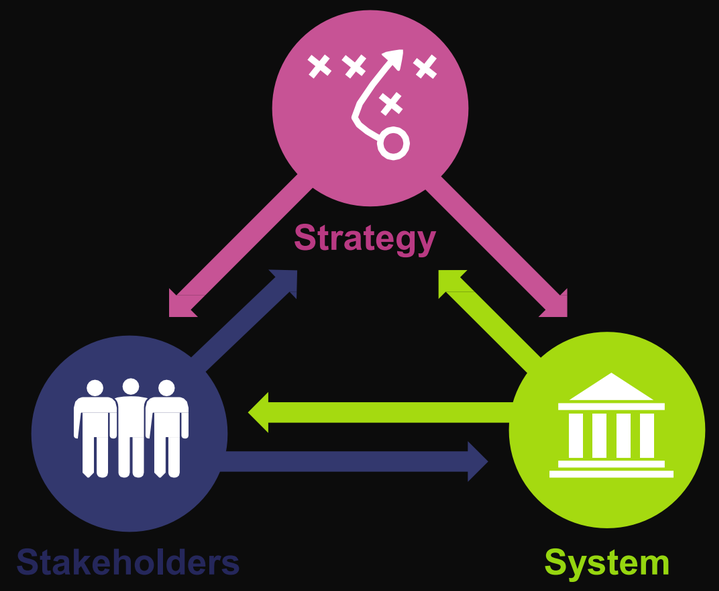


MIT REAP Program – Strategic Partner

Regional Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program (https://reap.mit.edu)

Independent entity enabling unbiased, inclusive consensus among diverse stakeholders

Innovation Program to drive collective impact toward ecosystem change

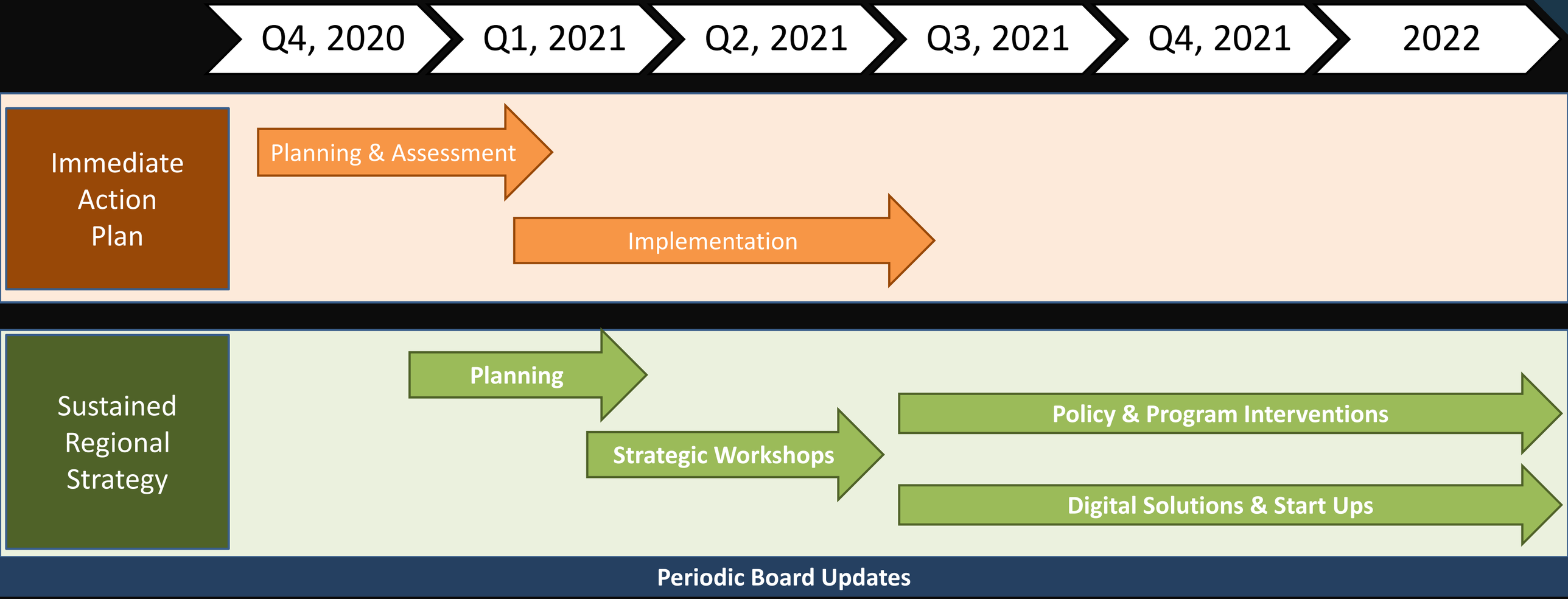


Proven framework engaging 51+ regions across the world since 2012

Implement strategic policy and program intervention with their regional stakeholder team

Timelines

Need Digital Divide Strategic Plan in collaboration with inputs from diverse public and private partners



Next Steps

Immediate Action Plan

- Collate all Digital Divide efforts from ISD, DPW, DCBA, DRP, DHS/DPH/DMH* and other departments to have a consolidated countywide update for the Board
- Collaborate with respective departments to identify potential funding sources
- Provide oversight, best practices in identified solutions implementation

Sustained Regional Strategy

- Seek approval of MIT REAP Program Funding from the Information Technology Investment Board Information Technology Fund (ITF)
- REAP team formation from local Los Angeles region-based stakeholders
- Engage with state and national efforts including NACO's Broadband Task Force
- Collaborate with other jurisdictions for best practices & synergies

*Includes partnerships with Center for Health Equity (DPH), Center for Financial Empowerment (DCBA)

Thank you

CONTACT US

EMAIL ADDRESS

jdhaliwal@cio.lacounty.gov

PHONE NUMBER

213-253-5604

MEDIA

@CountyCIO

company/la -county -officer

https://ceo.lacounty.gov/chief -information -office/